

## Open-ended, Short Questions

### A. Follow-up questions are the easiest:

Like what?  
Such as?  
Say more.  
For example...  
Why else?

What was that like?  
How did that happen?  
Was that the first time?  
How did that strike you?

### B. From the NACDL hand-out:

1. Why do you feel that way? [How did that make you feel.]
2. What experiences have you had with \_\_\_\_\_ ?
3. How have you formed your opinions?
4. What has had the greatest influence on your opinion?
5. Where have you gotten your information about this?
6. What do you mean?
7. How do you feel about people who don't believe (as you do)?
8. How does that affect your view of this case?
9. What was your reaction?
10. How does that affect you?
11. What is the community's opinion about this?
12. Why do you smile when you say that? [Did I detect some hesitation?]
13. Please give me an example of that. [Can you give an example?]
14. How strongly do you feel about this? [Do you feel strongly about it?]
15. How much thought have you given this subject?
16. Why don't you believe \_\_\_\_\_ as Ms. Jones does?  
[I take it you see it somewhat differently from the way X does?]
17. What else should we know about your views?

C. Planning your questions - keeping the form in mind.

1. Take a “standard” question and break it down.

Do you understand that the defendant is presumed to be innocent of the charges against him? Do you have any quarrel with that proposition?

*becomes*

When Judge Peters told you the name of the case and then introduced Mr. Jenkins to you, what thoughts went through your mind? [and follow-up questions]

*or maybe*

What is your understanding of the presumption of innocence?

*or*

Before coming here today, what did you think a person accused of a crime was expected to prove?

2. Take an aspect of your particular case, and develop your questions to elicit things you want to know.

a. Insanity

Have you ever known anyone who suffered from mental problems?

Who has been treated by a psychiatrist or psychologist?

In a treatment setting?

Do you have any opinions about mental illness?

To what extent do you believe that a person can deal with mental problems by himself?

What opinions do you have about the defense of insanity?

Based on what?

b. Police (veracity)

1. You have some friends who are police officers...

Good friends?

How did you meet them?

How many of their fellow officers have you met?

Has your friend talked to you about his work?

Has he talked about other officers?

Have you got any impression how different  
police officers can be as individuals?

I take it you would tend to believe what your friend  
told you - else he wouldn't be your friend?

Do you have any other friends whose word you can't  
always take at face value?

Without names, can you give an example?

If a police officer you don't know testifies in this case,  
how will you decide how much to believe?

2. You say you don't know any police officers personally ...

What contact have you had with police officers?

Where do you think they come from, before they  
were police?

Do you watch television?

How much do you think what you see on television  
influences the way you regard police?

What else might affect the way you see police?

When it comes to telling the truth, what attitude  
or opinions do you have about police?